

Message Text

SECRET

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43

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 SPC-03 AID-20 NSC-10

RSC-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

LAB-06 SIL-01 L-03 H-03 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 SCEM-02

INT-08 DRC-01 /189 W

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R 251155Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4257

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

S E C R E T TEHRAN 7510

PARIS FOR OECD, BRUSSELS FOR USEC

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, IR

SUBJECT: PETROLEUM: BRITISH AND FRENCH REPRESENTATIONS CONCERNING
OPEC PRICING

1. BRITISH EMBASSY HAS KEPT US GENERALLY INFORMED OF
THEIR ACTIVITIES COINCIDENT WITH THE RECENT PERSIAN
GULF PRODUCERS UNILATERAL PRICE INCREASES. UK
AMBASSADOR RAMSBOTHAM UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM DOWNING ST.
CALLED ON SHAH TO REMONSTRATE AND FOLLOWED THAT CALL UP WITH
DETAILED LETTER TO THE SHAH OUTLINING BRITISH DIFFICULTIES WHICH
ARE MADE MORE ACUTE BY PERSIAN GULF PRODUCERS ACTIONS. MAJOR
PROBLEM ACCORDING TO RAMSBOTHAM IS THAT PRIME
MINISTER HEATH IS FEARFUL OF POLITICAL IMPACT OF THE
INCREASED PETROLEUM PRICES. TO THIS END BRITISH ARE
SEEKING TO CONVINCE SHAH THAT BACKING OFF FROM RECENT
UNILATERAL ACTIONS AND RETURNING TO NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN

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PRODUCTING STATES AND COMPANIES WOULD BE BENEFICIAL

FROM A POLITICAL AS WELL AS PUBLIC RELATIONS STANDPOINT.

2. FRENCH EMBASSY ALSO MADE REPRESENTATIONS TO THE
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRIOR TO PRICE INCREASE
ANNOUNCEMENTS.

3. WE ARE UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT BRITISH AND FRENCH
WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO HAVE U.S. ENTER THE FRAY ON
THE PRICING QUESTION. HOWEVER, OUR JUDGMENT IS THAT
PERSIAN GULF GOVERNMENTS, LEAVING ASIDE ANY CONSIDERATIONS
ARISING FROM THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT, ARE SO PUBLICLY
COMMITTED TO THE COURSE OF ACTION ANNOUNCED IN KUWAIT
THAT IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE,
TO EXPECT THAT DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS WILL AFFECT
THEIR PRESENT STAND IN ANY SUBSTANTIAL FASHION.
HELMS

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